

REMARKS

The claims were again rejected in the above-identified Office Action as being unpatentable in view of the cited Neter patent. However, as a result of the foregoing amendments to independent Claims 12-15, it is believed that the rejections are overcome.

As amended, Claims 12-15 require a first read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a first image pickup area through addition of n pixels (n is a natural number), and a second read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a second image pickup area, smaller than the first image pickup area, without addition or through addition of m pixels ($m < n$, m is a natural number).

Also, Claims 12-15 now require that a plural number of colors is picked up in each of the first and second pickup areas.

Applicants respectfully submit that these requirements of Claim 12 are patentably distinct over the principal rejecting reference, the Neter patent, because that patent does not disclose different size pickup areas as required in Claim 12, nor that plural colors are picked up in such different sized pickup areas.

Referring specifically to the disclosure of the Neter reference, Applicants stress again that the pickup areas relied upon in the Office Action as disclosing different sized pickup areas, do not in fact have different sizes. That is, in the Office Action it is apparently asserted that since different numbers of pixels are summed by element 253 in Fig. 9 (so that, for example, 4 reds and 8 greens are summed) the pickup areas for those readouts are sized differently. However, what Fig. 9 shows is a single pickup area 250,

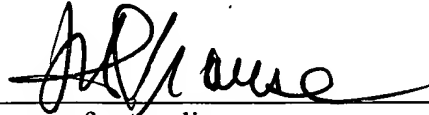
which constitutes a 4x4 area, having 8 green pixels and 4 red pixels. Accordingly, this single pickup area in Neter does not disclose the concept claimed by Applicants, regarding two differently sized pickup areas as depicted, for example, in Applicants Figs. 4 and 8.

This novel concept of Applicants' claimed invention is stressed also by the addition to each of the independent claims which now require that plural colors are picked up in each of the differently sized pickup areas. Thus, if Neter is viewed at 250 as including a pickup area that picks up only the 4 red pixels, which area is smaller than the area including 8 green pixels (an interpretation that Applicants believe to be improper), then the claims are still patentable over Neter, because in that view the smaller area would include only red pixels, and the larger only green pixels, not plural colors as now claimed. In summary, Neter discloses at 250 a single 4x4 pickup area, but processes different pixels in that single area.

For these various reasons Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims, as well as all of the dependent claims, are patentably distinct over the cited references. Accordingly, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Krause", written over a horizontal line.

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